



John Valceanu &lt;john.valceanu@nara.gov&gt;

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## Re: PRA and FRA Statements and Guidance

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**Meg Phillips** <meg.phillips@nara.gov>  
To: Maria Stanwich <maria.stanwich@nara.gov>  
Cc: John Valceanu john.valceanu@nara.gov

Tue, Feb 14, 2017 at 2:26 PM

Maria and Valchy,

Who exactly would like to be copied on updates related to this? What follows is 1) important announcement from SAA and OpenTheGovernment.org, 2 questions about possible violations of the FRA and PRA that I think you've probably heard before, 3) a report about how Data.gov is thinking about Data Refuge projects, and 4) my thoughts about how NARA could play an active rather than purely reactive role on some of this stuff (particularly the web harvest and data set issues.)

Today, here's what we've got {from pasted release widely distributed on listservs}

1) The Society of American Archivists (SAA) has signed on to a letter to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, requesting that OMB "issue guidance to federal agencies, reminding them that they are required under the Paperwork Reduction Act to give public notice before removing online government information." The letter begins:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to request that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issue guidance to federal agencies, reminding them that they are required under the Paperwork Reduction Act to give public notice before removing online government information.<sup>1</sup> We are concerned, given recent reports that the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other agencies have begun removing information on a number of important topics such as animal welfare, individuals with disabilities, climate change, and more from their websites,<sup>2</sup> that the public is at risk of losing access to valuable government information.<sup>3</sup> We respectfully request your attention be given to this matter and that OMB take immediate action to ensure appropriate public notice is given.

The Paperwork Reduction Act states that any agency must, "provide adequate notice when initiating, substantially modifying, or terminating significant information dissemination products."<sup>4</sup> It was widely reported that the Trump Administration directed the Environmental Protection Agency to remove the climate change page from its website, and then later scaled back plans for removal, causing confusion and worry.<sup>5</sup> There has still been no public notice announcing which information the agency is removing from its website, and the public has no way of knowing which government information is no longer accessible online, or where it may have been archived elsewhere on the agency site. We also do not know whether other agencies received similar orders from the White House or individuals within the agency, and may have already started removing important government information from the web.

Read the full letter, coordinated by OpenTheGovernment.org and signed by more than 60 organizations, [here](#).

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2) OpenTheGovernment.org's Patrice McDermott wrote:

There is a good deal of interest (in several communities) in the WH (and also agency) use of communications applications such as Signal -- an end-to-end encrypted instant messaging and voice calling application that can be set to auto-delete messages and calls. (b) (5)

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Meg

Meg Phillips  
External Affairs Liaison  
National Archives and Records Administration  
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On Sun, Feb 12, 2017 at 2:45 PM, Maria Stanwich <[maria.stanwich@nara.gov](mailto:maria.stanwich@nara.gov)> wrote:

Hi Meg,

Last Friday, we posted a PRA statement and guidance to [archives.gov](http://archives.gov).

<https://www.archives.gov/>

<https://www.archives.gov/news/fra-pra-guidance>

We'll be doing the same for FRA on Monday. Valchy will let you know when it's been posted.

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If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please contact me or Valchy.

Thanks  
Maria